

# The Prairie Light Review

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Volume 13

Number 1 *The Dreaming Tree*

Article 36

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Winter 3-1-1994

## Why I Fish

Erik Humbert

*College of DuPage*

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### Recommended Citation

Humbert, Erik (1994) "Why I Fish," *The Prairie Light Review*: Vol. 13 : No. 1 , Article 36.

Available at: <https://dc.cod.edu/plr/vol13/iss1/36>

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## Why I Fish

*by Erik Humbert*

The first time  
I sat on this beach  
it was mid-tide  
and the ocean was layering itself  
in white folds along the coast,  
one layer  
                    on the one before,  
and the moon was low  
and coming across the water in streaks like a flashlight  
to the shore,  
and thinning out  
with the rolling edges of the breaks,  
those crisp white lines  
stretched out to meet  
each other  
and form even more white lines  
thickening and then flattening  
into a smooth rest and fade  
under the next fold,  
and I sat near  
with the water sounding in regular peaks  
and began to  
isolate a motion  
similar to the perpetual white water line tucks  
and as methodical as the smooth art of the moon,  
and it is now for this  
                    that I am fishing  
waist deep in the surf  
trying to match the curve of the moon  
and the heavy turning of the earth  
with each cast  
as it seems  
this is  
the best way  
to cast to the deep,  
that  
and catching the undertow  
and a damn well-rigged rod.